

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0031658) in view of Jeong (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0016313). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ozaki teaches a pattern display device and a gaming machine that incorporates the same. The pattern display device includes a pattern display unit and a front side display unit. The pattern display unit has a display portion for displaying a plurality of different first patterns. Also, the pattern display unit is capable of performing a stationary display and a varying display. The front side display unit is disposed in front of the pattern display unit and is capable of displaying a plurality of different second patterns overlapping with the plurality of first patterns. The front side display unit is transparent except for the plurality of second patterns.

Jeong discloses a liquid crystal display that includes a light guide plate. The light guide plate guides light emitted from a lamp unit to a display unit to display an image. The light guide plate has a catching jaw and projection formed by cutting at least one corner of a first end portion receiving the light from the lamp unit. The projection extends outwardly from a sidewall of the catching jaw and has a thickness

thinner than that of the catching jaw. A mold frame receives the light guide plate and the lamp unit. The mold frame has a catching boss and a recess. The catching boss is formed at a first position corresponding to the catching jaw on a bottom surface of the mold frame to engage with the catching jaw to fix the light guide plate in the mold frame and the recess is formed at a second position corresponding to the projection in a sidewall of the mold frame to receive the projection.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying designs and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 1 recites that the front display device includes an electrical display device for allowing the variable display device to be observed therethrough and a rear holder for holding the electrical display device from a rear side thereof in a facially-opposing manner. Also, claim 1 recites that the rear holder includes a flat panel member defined by an outer peripheral edge and has a front face and an opposite rear face defining a thickness therebetween. Claim 4 further recites that the panel member has one or more windows disposed internally of the outer peripheral edge and extending to and between the front and rear faces allowing the designs variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed therethrough. Each window has a first recessed portion extending from the front face and partially into the panel member and a second recessed portion extending from the rear face and partially into the panel member toward the front display device. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the second recessed portion is larger than the first recessed portion thereby forming a stepped down portion from the first recessed portion to the second recessed portion that completely surrounds the first recessed portion.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest a panel member of the rear holder has one or more windows disposed internally of an outer peripheral edge thereof. Furthermore, it is respectfully

submitted that the applied art also fails to teach or suggest that each window has a first recessed portion extending from the front face and partially into the panel member and a second recessed portion extending from the rear face and partially into the panel member toward the front display device with the second recessed portion being larger than the first recessed portion thereby forming a stepped down portion from the first recessed portion to the second recessed portion that completely surrounds the first recessed portion. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 4, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying designs and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 4 recites that the front display device includes an electrical display device for allowing the variable display device to be observed therethrough and a rear holder for holding the electrical display device from a rear side thereof. Claim 4 also recites that the rear holder includes a flat panel member defined by an outer peripheral edge with the panel member having a front face and a rear face defining a thickness therebetween and having one or more windows disposed internally of the outer peripheral edge and extending to and between the front and rear faces for allowing the designs variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed. Claim 4 further recites that each window has a first recessed portion formed into the front face and partially into the panel member and a second recessed portion formed into the rear face and partially into the panel member with the second recessed portion being larger than the first recessed portion. Furthermore, claim 4 recites that the first and second recessed portions are in communication with each other between the front and rear faces to form a stepped-down rear holder surface disposed between the front face and the rear face and extending perpendicularly from the rear face, into the panel member and partially towards the front face and surrounding the first recessed portion.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 4 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest a flat panel member of a rear holder defined by an outer peripheral edge has a front face and a rear face defining a thickness therebetween and having one or more windows disposed internally of the outer peripheral edge and extending to and between the front and rear faces for allowing the designs variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach or suggest that each window has a first recessed portion formed into the front face and partially into the panel member and a second recessed portion formed into the rear face and partially into the panel member with the second recessed portion being larger than the first recessed portion. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach or suggest that the first and second recessed portions are in communication with each other between the front and rear faces to form a stepped-down rear holder surface disposed between the front face and the rear face and extending perpendicularly from the rear face, into the panel member and partially towards the front face and surrounding the first recessed portion. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 5, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying designs and a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device. Claim 5 recites that the front display device includes an electrical display device for allowing the variable display device to be observed therethrough and a rear holder for holding the electrical display device from a rear side thereof in a facially-opposing manner. Also, claim 5 recites that the rear holder includes a flat panel member defined by an outer peripheral edge with the panel member having a front face and a rear face defining a thickness therebetween and having at least one window extending through and between the front and rear

faces for allowing the designs variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed therethrough. Further, claim 5 recites that the at least one window is disposed internally of the outer peripheral edge and has a front recessed window portion formed into the front face and extending partially toward the rear face to terminate in a front recessed opening and a rear recessed window portion formed into the rear face and extending partially toward the front face to terminate in a rear recessed opening. Additionally, claim 5 recites that the front recessed window portion and the rear recessed window portion are in communication with one another between the front and rear faces with the rear recessed opening and the front recessed opening coexisting in a common plane as viewed in cross-section with the rear recessed opening surrounding the front recessed opening.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 5 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that a flat panel member of the rear holder is defined by an outer peripheral edge with the panel member having a front face and a rear face defining a thickness therebetween and having at least one window extending through and between the front and rear faces for allowing the designs variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed therethrough. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach or suggest that the at least one window is disposed internally of the outer peripheral edge and has a front recessed window portion formed into the front face and extending partially toward the rear face to terminate in a front recessed opening and a rear recessed window portion formed into the rear face and extending partially toward the front face to terminate in a rear recessed opening. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach or suggest that the front recessed window portion and the rear recessed window portion are in communication with one another between the front and rear faces with the rear recessed opening and the front recessed opening coexisting in a common plane as viewed in cross-section with the rear recessed opening surrounding the front recessed opening. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of

ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is allowable over the applied art.

Support for the claimed subject matter is found in Figures 3(a) and 3(b) with additional support in the specification and, specifically, in paragraph [0023] on page 13.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

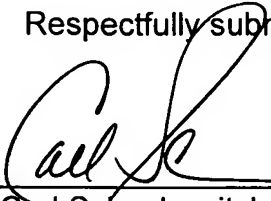
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 9, 2009

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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